

DECEMBER 18, 1806.

Read the first and second time, and committed to a committee of the whole House, on Monday next.

A Bill,

To incorporate the trustees of the Baptist church, in the city of Washington.



1 Sec. 1. *BE it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of*
2 *the United States of America, in congress assembled,* That Joseph
3 Burrows, Bartleson Fox, Thomas Le Tellier, Joseph Huddleston,
4 Thomas Carpenter, and their successors, duly elected and appointed
5 in manner hereinafter directed, be, and they are hereby declared
6 and constituted a corporation and body politic, in law and in fact,
7 to have continuance for ever, by the name of “The trustees of the
8 Baptist church, in the city of Washington.”

1 Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That all and singular the lands
2 or tenements, which have been purchased or built for, or on account

3 of said church, be, and they are hereby vested in the said corpora-
 4 tion ; and that the said corporation may purchase, take, receive and
 5 enjoy any lands, tenements, rents, annuities, rights, or privileges,
 6 or any goods, chattels, or other effects, of what kind or nature soever,
 7 which shall or may hereafter be given, granted, sold, devised or be-
 8 queathed to them by any person or persons, bodies politic or corpo-
 9 rate, capable of making such gift, grant, sale, or bequest ; and the
 10 said property, real and personal, to hold, rent, sell, convey and con-
 11 firm, or otherwise dispose of, as fully and effectually as any person
 12 or persons, bodies corporate or politic, may or can do : *Provided,*
 13 That no sale or purchase shall be made without the consent of a
 14 majority of the members of the church, present at a special meeting,
 15 to be called for the purpose of taking such purchase or sale into
 16 consideration, by publicly giving at least ten days previous notice ;
 17 and that the clear annual income of all such property shall not ex-
 18 ceed three thousand dollars ; and that the lands and tenements now
 19 belonging to the said church, or whatever may hereafter be given,
 20 granted, sold, devised or bequeathed, whether real or personal, be
 21 considered as holden in trust, under the management of the said
 22 corporation, solely for the purposes of defraying the expenses inci-
 23 dent to their mode of religious worship, inclosing and keeping in re-
 24 pair their grave yards, and other lots and buildings which they do,
 25 or may hereafter possess, and of affording such relief to their poor
 26 as may by them be judged eligible, and for no other purposes.

1 Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That the said corporation, by
 2 the name and title aforesaid, be, and shall for ever be, capable in

3 law, to sue and be sued, to plead and be impleaded in any court,
 4 and before any competent jurisdiction within the United States, in
 5 all manner of suits, actions, pleas, complaints, matters and causes,
 6 of whatever kind or nature they may be, in as full and effectual a
 7 manner as any person or persons, bodies politic or corporate, may
 8 or can do.

1 Sec. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the said corporation may
 2 have and use a common seal, with such device and inscription as
 3 they may think proper, and break and alter the same at their plea-
 4 sure ; and may adopt such bye-laws for their own secular govern-
 5 ment as they may consider necessary : *Provided*, that no bye-law,
 6 rule, or ordinance, which shall be made, be repugnant to the laws
 7 of the United States.

1 Sec. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That on the first Monday
 2 of January, there shall be an annual meeting of the members
 3 of the church, at their place of public worship, at which time
 4 and place the said members, or a majority of such of them as
 5 may be present, shall elect any number of trustees, not exceeding
 6 seven, to serve for one year from the time of their election, and un-
 7 til others shall be elected in their place ; a majority of the whole
 8 number of trustees shall be a quorum to do business ; and special
 9 meetings of the church may be convened, when necessary, by giv-
 10 ing at least ten days previous notice, for the purpose of filling any
 11 vacancy which may occur by the death, removal, or resignation of
 12 any of the trustees.

1 Sec. 6. *And be it further enacted,* That the said trustees shall
2 keep, or cause to be kept, in suitable books, just and proper entries
3 of all their proceedings and accounts, and lay them before the church
4 previously to every annual election, and at such other times as may
5 be required ; and they shall always deliver over the said books,
6 together with all and singular the property of the said church, in
7 good order, to their successors in office.